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Collide

PHOTOGRAPHY: MATTHEW COOKE

COLLIDE merges industry and passion within swirling layers of sound and emotion. The name COLLIDE was chosen as it seemed to represent the clashing and melding of styles into a powerful whole--the coming together of two different entities. The primary core of the L.A.-based duo is Statik and kaRIN. Statik is responsible for all of the sound orchestrations and overall production. kaRIN takes care of the vocals and lyrics.

Meaningful lyrics and alluring hypnotic vocals combine with an aural sculpture to form an experience in listening that manages to defy categorization. kaRIN remarks, "I think the reason why our sound is different is because we do not approach music in the traditional way. We don't really play music, we try to create soundscapes--layers of depth and sound."

The two members of COLLIDE met at an industrial club in L.A., became friends, and later formed the band in 1993. To date, the duo have released five full-length CDs: "Beneath the Skin," "Distort," "Chasing the Ghost," "Some Kind of Strange," and now "Vortex."

Statik who first arrived on the scene with his solo release "Statik: Machines," has been sought out by many artists in the music industry, including Tool, Prince, Powerman 5000, Love and Rockets, and Econoline Crush to name a few. He has recently done programming for the new Skinny Puppy album being released in 2004. COLLIDE also did a remix for Front Line Assembly with kaRIN providing vocals on their remix album "Rewind," which can now also be found on "Vortex." kaRIN also added guest vocals to two of the songs on platEAU, (one of cEvin Key's (Skinny Puppy/Download) side projects.)

Statik explains, "I just was not hearing what I wanted out there, so we are trying to make it ourselves. We are both such different people and we just try to make music that we like, which is a difficult enough task." kaRIN expresses, "For me, music has to be satisfying on all levels; and for Statik, he is the ultimate perfectionist, and could spend days tweaking one sound so that it fits into his vision."

Several friends and guest artists, including Monica Richards and William Faith (Faith & The Muse), Kevin Kipnis (Purr Machine), cEvin Key (Skinny Puppy), Danny Carey (Tool), Charlie Clouser (formally of NIN), Rhys Fulber (Conjure One/Delerium/Front Line Assembly), Mark Walk (producer of new Skinny Puppy/Ogre/Ruby), and Mike Fisher (Machines and Loving Grace/Amish Rake Fight), have made contributions to their various albums.

"Beneath the Skin" examines the internal feelings inside. "Distort" contains remixes from "Beneath the Skin" as well as some cover songs, including their version of "Son of a Preacher Man," which they made their first video for. "Chasing the Ghost," says kaRIN, "is named to capture that feeling of searching for essence... like a space you can't fill, a haunting that you can't quite put your finger on." "Some kind of Strange" continues on to explore one's place within themselves and the universe. "I always write from the heart," says kaRIN. "Music is my escape."

The newest release "Vortex," is a double CD that includes remixes from both "Some Kind of Strange" as well as "Chasing the Ghost." Remixers, DJs, and bands from all over the world lend their passion and inspiration to further expand on the already diverse sound of Collide. The remixes range from chunky guitar versions, to slithering lounge stylings, to Delirium-esq grooves that are sure to hit the dance floor. This CD also contains three new covers, including the very poignant "The Lunatics Are Taking Over the Asylum" originally recorded by The Funboy Three.

Due to dissatisfaction with the music industry, COLLIDE began their own record label, Noiseplus Music. On deciding to self release, "This was a decision we had to make, as so much energy and life goes into each song, in layers, development, and levels. We are passionate about what we do and just enjoy having total control."

Ultimately, Collide strives to cut their own musical path, different from the mainstream, and deeply appreciates those people who seek out and help expose new music.